

What is Claimed:

1. A method for the streaming of dynamic weather content simultaneously to a plurality of end user clients in a wide area communication system, comprising the steps performed at a weather content server of:
 - collecting weather content continuously from a plurality of weather stations;
 - receiving a request for dynamic weather content from each end user client at predetermined time intervals;
 - selecting local weather content to be delivered to each end user client in response to each request; and
 - transmitting the selected weather content simultaneously to each end user client.
2. The method for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 1 wherein the wide area communications system is the Internet.
3. The method for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 1 wherein the step of collecting weather content continuously comprises the act of receiving dynamically-changing weather content from a plurality of geographically distributed weather stations.
4. The method for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 1 wherein the step of collecting weather information comprises the act of receiving local weather alert content from at least one weather source.

5. The method for the streaming of the dynamic weather content of claim 1 wherein the dynamic weather content is updated in real-time.
6. The method for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 1, further comprising the acts of:
 - interactively registering each end user client, including completion of a user profile, before selected local weather content is delivered to each end user client;
 - providing each end user client with a configuration for controlling the display of the selected local weather content.
7. The method for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 1, further comprising the act of placing a current temperature icon that is updated in real-time on a display associated with each end user client.
8. The method for the streaming of dynamic content of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving a request for dynamic weather content from an end user client includes processing a message formatted according to the HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP).
9. The method for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 1 wherein the selected weather content is streamed as dynamically-changing local data to each end user client display and includes a current temperature icon that is placed in a system tray on a display associated with the end user client.

10. A system for the streaming of dynamic weather content simultaneously to a plurality of end user clients in a wide area communication network, comprising:

at least one storage device for storing a plurality of databases, including a weather content database; and

a weather content server connected to the storage device and operating a computer program including:

an information handling component for collecting dynamic weather content continuously from a plurality of weather stations to distribute to the end user clients;

a message receiving component for receiving a request for dynamic weather content from each end user client at predetermined time intervals;

a selection component for selecting local weather content to be delivered to each end user client in response to each request; and

a transmission component for transmitting the selected weather content simultaneously to each end user client.

11. The system for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 10 wherein the computer program further comprises:

a registration component for interactively registering each end user client,
including completion of a user profile, before selected local weather
content is delivered to each end user client; and
a configuration component for providing each end user client with a configuration
to control the display of the selected weather content.

12. The system for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 10 wherein the message receiving component further comprises a module for processing a message formatted according to the HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP).
13. The system for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 10 wherein the transmission component streams weather content as dynamically-changing local weather data to the end user client display, the weather data including a current temperature icon that is placed in a system tray on a display associated with the end user client.
14. A computer readable medium containing a computer program product for the streaming of dynamic weather content simultaneously to a plurality of end user clients in a wide area communication system, the computer program product comprising:
 - program instructions that collect dynamic weather content continuously from a plurality of weather stations;
 - program instructions that receive a request for dynamic weather content from each end user client at predetermined time intervals;

program instructions that select local weather content to be delivered to each end user client in response to each request; and
program instructions that transmit the selected weather content simultaneously to each end user client.

15. The computer program product for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 14 wherein the program instructions that collect weather content continuously comprise program instructions that receive dynamic weather content from a plurality of geographically distributed weather stations.

16. The computer program product for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 14 wherein the program instructions that collect weather information comprise program instructions that receive local weather alert content from at least one weather source.

17. The computer program product for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 14 wherein the dynamic weather content is updated in real-time.

18. The computer program product for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 14, further comprising:

program instructions that interactively register each end user client before selected local weather content is delivered to each end user client;
program instructions that provide each end user client with a configuration to control the display of the selected weather content.

19. The computer program product for the streaming of dynamic weather content of claim 14 wherein the program instructions that receive a request for dynamic weather content from each end user client include program instructions that process a message formatted according to the HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

20. A method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server simultaneously to a plurality of end user clients in a wide area communications system comprising the steps performed at each client device of:

sending a request for a command list for dynamic weather content to the weather content server and generating a thread for each command returned in the command list;

issuing a command to the weather content server for each thread generated;

receiving a response containing selected weather content from the weather content server corresponding to each issued command; and

repeating the issuing and receiving steps independently for each thread after an associated preset interval of time has elapsed.

21. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

determining if a communications link is available to the client device;

establishing a communications connection with the weather content server if the communications link is available.

22. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

determining if an announcement popup is available to the client device; and
displaying the announcement popup on the client device if an announcement popup is available.

23. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 20 wherein the command list includes a get design command.

24. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 23 wherein the get design command issued to the weather content server returns the layout information for the client device desktop display of weather content as determined by the weather content server.

25. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 24 wherein the display layout information includes a background bitmap uniform resource locator.

26. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 24 wherein the display layout information includes a design update interval as the associated preset interval of time.

27. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 20 wherein the command list includes a get data command.
28. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 27 wherein the get data command issued to the weather content server returns selected local weather content as determined by the weather content server and which is displayed in a predetermined format on the client device desktop display.
29. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 28 further comprising the act of issuing another get data command after a preset active query interval that is included with the returned local weather content.
30. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 28 further comprising the act of issuing another get data command after a preset inactive query interval that is included with the returned local weather content.
31. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 20 wherein the command list includes a get alert command.
32. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 31 wherein the get alert command issued to the weather content server returns local weather alert content which is displayed in a predetermined format on the client device desktop display.

33. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 32 wherein the weather alert content includes an alert update interval as the associated preset interval of time.
34. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 32 wherein the command list includes a get custom links command.
35. the method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 34 wherein the get custom links command issued to the weather content server returns a uniform resource locator for each of a plurality of pre-selected custom links.
36. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 20 wherein the command list includes a get cams command.
37. The method for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 36 wherein the get cams command is repeated at a cam query interval.
38. A computer readable medium containing a computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed simultaneously from a weather content server to each of a plurality of end user clients in a wide area communications system, the computer program product comprising:

program instructions that send a request for a command list for dynamic weather content to the weather content server and generate a thread for each command returned in the command list;

program instructions that issue a command to the weather content server for each thread generated;

program instructions that receive a response containing selected weather content from the weather content server corresponding to each issued command; and

program instructions that repeat the issuing of a command and receiving response instructions independently for each thread after an associated preset interval of time has elapsed.

39. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 38 further comprising:
- program instructions that determine if a communications link is available to the client device;
 - program instructions that establish a communications connection with the weather content server if the communications link is available.
40. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 38 further comprising:
- program instructions that determine if an announcement popup is available to the client device; and

program instructions that display the announcement popup on the client device if
an announcement popup is available.

41. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 38 wherein the command list includes a get design command.
42. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 41 further comprising program instructions that receive design layout information and generate a desktop display of weather content for the client device.
43. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 42 wherein the design layout information includes a background bitmap uniform resource locator.
44. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 42 wherein the design layout information includes a design update interval as the associated preset interval of time.
45. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 38 wherein the command list includes a get data command.

46. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 45 further comprising program instructions that receive and display returned local weather content as determined by the weather content server in a predetermined format on the client device desktop display.

47. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 46 further comprising:

program instructions that issue another get data command after a preset active query interval that is included with the returned local weather content; and
program instructions that display the returned local weather content in a foreground display in a predetermined format.

48. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server 46 further comprising:

program instructions that issue another get data command after a preset inactive query interval that is included with the returned local weather content; and
program instructions that display a returned current temperature as a dynamically changing temperature icon on a end user client display.

49. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 38 wherein the command list includes a get alert command.

50. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 49 further comprises program instructions that receive and display a local weather alert content in a predetermined format on the client device desktop display, including a flashing current temperature icon and an audible chirp to alert the end user when a new weather alert is received.
51. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 50 wherein the weather alert content includes an alert update interval as the associated preset interval of time.
52. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 38 wherein the command list includes a get custom links command.
53. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 52 wherein the get custom links command issued to the weather content server returns a uniform resource locator for each of a plurality of pre-selected custom links.
54. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 53 further comprising program instructions that repeat

the get custom links command at a custom links query interval returned with the uniform resource locators.

55. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 38 wherein the command list includes a get cams command.
56. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 55 wherein the get cams command issued to the weather content server returns the uniform resource locator of a local video camera image and a cam query interval.
57. The computer program product for receiving dynamic weather content streamed from a weather content server of claim 56 further comprising program instructions that repeat the get cams command at the cam query interval.